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IN THE CLAIMS:

Please AMEND claims 1-15 as follows:

1. (AMENDED) A joining connection comprising a circumferentially closed hollow profile and an add-on part which defines a passage opening, and, on an inside of the passage opening, defines a recess which is spaced away from end sides of the add-on part, wherein the add-on part is slid with the passage opening onto the hollow profile and jammed to the hollow profile in this sliding-fit position by an expansion of the hollow profile, the expansion being formed by internal high-pressure deformation, and further wherein the add-on part consists of a material of lower yield strength than a material of the hollow profile, and the add-on part is only jammed to the hollow profile locally at a location of the recess.

2. (AMENDED) The joining connection according to Claim 1, wherein the recess is an annular freely turned recess.

3. (AMENDED) The joining connection according to Claim 1, wherein the hollow profile consists of a ductile steel material, preferably of St 37 or St 52, and the add-on part consists of a casting material, of a die casting or injection molding, preferably of ZnAl4Cu, or of a lower-strength steel or of a light metal material.

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4. (AMENDED) The joining connection according to Claim 1, wherein the recess is of curved design with a shallow rise extending from a base to opposing edges of the recess.

5. (AMENDED) The joining connection according to Claim 1, wherein an expanded point of the hollow profile bears in an exact manner against a wall defining the recess.

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Cont.*

6. (AMENDED) A method for producing a joining connection between a circumferentially closed hollow profile and an add-on part which is provided with a passage opening, a recess which is spaced away from end sides of the add-on part being formed on an inside of the passage opening, comprising the steps of sliding the add-on part with its passage opening onto the hollow profile, and expanding the hollow profile, in the sliding-fit position reached, by a fluidic internal high pressure delivered by an expansion lance inserted into the hollow profile, in such a manner that the hollow profile is jammed immovably to the add-on part, wherein the add-on part is comprised of a material of lower yield strength than a material of the hollow profile, and wherein the hollow profile is only expanded into the recess locally.

7. (AMENDED) The method according to Claim 6, wherein the recess is of curved design with a shallow rise from a base to opposing edges of the

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recess, and wherein the hollow profile is expanded until it bears completely against a wall defining the recess.

8. (AMENDED) The method according to Claim 6, wherein the add-on part is cast as a cast part having a discarded core and wherein the recess is cast at the same time as the add-on part.

9. (AMENDED) The method according to Claim 6, wherein the add-on part is injection molded or die cast and the recess is subsequently freely turned.

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cont.*  
10. (AMENDED) The method according to Claim 6, wherein the add-on part is formed, in particular forged, from a low-strength steel, and wherein the recess is then engraved, turned or milled out from the add-on part.

11. (AMENDED) A steering column of a motor vehicle comprising a casing tube which surrounds a steering spindle and forms a hollow profile, and a holder, constituting an add-on part, for example for a steering column switch, the holder joined onto the casing tube, wherein the holder, which consists of a material of lower yield strength than a material of the casing tube, defines a circumferentially closed passage opening and is slid onto the casing tube, the passage opening having, on an inside, at least one recess which is spaced away from end sides of the holder, which end sides lie transversely with respect to a

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longitudinal direction of the casing tube, and wherein the casing tube has a locking element which, in the sliding-fit position of the holder, is shaped radially from a wall of the holder locally at a location of the recess by a fluidic internal high pressure and is jammed in the recess as a consequence of a shape of the locking element, forming a non-releasable joining connection between the holder and the casing tube.

12. (AMENDED) The steering column according to Claim 11, wherein the locking element bears over an entire surface against a wall defining the recess.

13. (AMENDED) The steering column according to Claim 11, wherein the recess is formed by an annular groove and the locking element is formed by an annular bead.

14. (AMENDED) The steering column according to Claim 11, wherein the casing tube consists of a ductile steel material, preferably of St 37 or St 52, and the holder consists of a casting material or of an injection molding or die casting, preferably of ZnAl4Cu, or of a low-strength steel or of a light metal material.

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15. (AMENDED) The steering column according to Claim 11, wherein the recess is of curved design with a shallow rise from a base to opposing edges of the recess.

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Please ADD new claims 16-18 as follows:

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16. (NEW) A joining connection comprising:

a circumferentially closed hollow profile; and

an add-on part defining a passage opening wherein an inside of the passage opening includes a recess which is spaced away from end sides of the add-on part;

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wherein the circumferentially hollow profile is disposed within the passage opening of the add-on part and wherein the hollow profile is joined to the add-on part by an expanded portion of the hollow profile, the expanded portion of the hollow profile only received within the recess defined by the add-on part; and

further wherein the add-on part is comprised of a material of lower yield strength than a material of the hollow profile.

17. (NEW) A method for producing a connection between a circumferentially closed hollow profile and an add-on part, the add-on part defining a passage opening wherein an inside of the passage opening includes a recess, comprising the steps of:

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disposing the hollow profile within the passage opening of the add-on part;  
and

expanding the hollow profile by a fluidic internal high pressure delivered by an expansion lance inserted into the hollow profile wherein the hollow profile is only expanded into the recess, the recess spaced away from end sides of the add-on part;

wherein the add-on part is comprised of a material of lower yield strength than a material of the hollow profile.

18. (NEW) A steering column of a motor vehicle comprising:

a casing tube forming a hollow profile; and

a holder defining a circumferentially closed passage opening wherein an inside of the passage opening includes a recess which is spaced away from end sides of the holder;

wherein the casing tube is disposed within the passage opening of the holder and locked in position within the holder by a locking element of the casing tube that is received within the recess of the holder, the locking element of the casing tube shaped radially by a wall of the holder defining the recess and a fluidic internal high pressure applied to the casing tube, the formed locking element jammed in the recess; and

wherein the holder is comprised of a material of lower yield strength than a material of the casing tube.